

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6963

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AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 8704

R

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, CO

SUBJECT: POST GENERAL ASSEMBLY STATUS OF CHARTER REFORM

REF: STATE 197847

1. POL COUNSELOR CALLED ON ACTING UNDERSECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND ORGANIZATIONS ALVARO BONILLA AND CONVEYED

YED

TO HIM SUBSTANCE PARA 6, REFTEL. BONILLA WAS IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH POINTS RAISED, ALTHOUGH HE WAS RESERVED AS TO COLOMBIA'S ABILITY TO AFFECT THE INCLUSION OF "NEW FACES" IN THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW CHARTER REFORM. HE WENT ON TO COMMENT THAT THE GOC SHARED OUR VIEWS ON REFORM BUT HAD BECOME QUITE SKEPTICAL AS TO WHETHER THE KIND OF CHARTER REFORM WHICH BOTH WE AND THE GOC DESIRE IS IN FACT ATTAINABLE IN THE FOREUOEABLE FUTURE. BONILLA DISCUSSED THE TENDENTIOUS ATTITUDES OF A NUMBER OF OAS REPS, WHO COULD BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO EXERCISE A NEGATIVE INFLUENCE ON CHARTER REFORM AND OTHER MATTERS, AS WELL AS THE FEELING AMONG SOME REPS THAT THE HUGE EXPENDITURE IN TIME AND MONEY IN PREVIOUS STUDIES OF OAS REFORM, WHICH BONILLA CONSIDERED TO BE WORSE THAN USELESS, MUST SOMEHOW BE JUSTIFIED BY UTILIZING THESE STUDIES AS THE

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BASIS FOR ANY FUTURE REFORM.

2. BONILLA SAID THAT GOC SKEPTICISM OVER POSSIBILITY OF ACHIEVING A USEFUL MECHANISM WITHIN THE OAS FOR COOPERATION ON DEVELOPMENT WAS CAUSING IT TO LOOK TO OTHER MEANS TO THIS END. HE MENTIONED A U.N. SPONSORED REGIONAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN LIMA LATER IN THE YEAR, IN WHICH LA NATIONS WOULD GATHER IN ORDER TO EXCHANGE TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE. COLOMBIA, BONILLA WENT ON, HAD CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE TO OFFER IN A NUMBER OF SOCIAL REFORM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AREAS AND LOOK FORWARD TO PARTICIPATING IN THE CONFERENCE. BONILLA SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO THE POINTS RAISED BY THE POL COUNSELOR AND INFORM HIM OF LIEVANO'S REACTION.

3. BONILLA SUBSEQUENTLY PHONED TO SAY THAT LIEVANO SHARED U.S. VIEW, SPECIFICALLY ON THE SEQUENCE OF TWO SPECIAL ASSEMBLIES ON DEVELOPMENT, COOPERATION AND ON CHARTER REFORM, WITH AN INTERVENING HIGH LEVEL REVIEW OF REFORM. THE FOREIGN MINISTER BELIEVED, HOWEVER, BONILLA REPORTED, THAT COLOMBIA'S INFLUENCE ON INCLUDING "NEW FACES" IN THE HIGH LEVEL REVIEW WAS LIMITED SINCE COLOMBIA IS NOT A PARTICIPANT IN THE COMMITTEE ON CHARTER REFORM.
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